

Jean Jewell

From: secretary
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2003 9:38 AM
To: Barb Barrows; Ed Howell; Janet Bahora; Jean Jewell
Subject: FW: CASE No. QWE-T-02-05

From: Joel Fleharty[SMTP:JOELFLE@EARTHLINK.NET]
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2003 9:36:52 AM
To: secretary
Subject: CASE No. QWE-T-02-05
Auto forwarded by a Rule

I am one of the many who probably cannot get to the work shops that are being held on case # QWE-T-02-05, Qwests request for deregulation. Their belief that cell phone service is a functional equivalent, competitively priced local service is in gross error, unless one has a well above average income. Cell phones do not compare at the basic rates period. Current QWEST basic rates allow the customer at minimum, the following: Use of an answering machine in the home, unlimited time for local calls, multiple phones in the home(saving item for those that cannot move well), use of dial-up internet services, TTY services for the hearing impaired. Cell phone services do not allow for any of these items. Then comes the matter of cost of basic services. If deregulation of QWEST is allowed, in a relatively short time, QWESTS basic rates will rise to compare with the Cell phone services (who are looking into raising rates and or lowering services provided). Those that will be the most impacted will be those that have low income, fixed income, and yes, even those in the middle income areas, particularly those with a family.

Since I am disabled, have a low, fixed income-Social Security, a raise in rates would force me to drop dial up internet services, my major outside contact. And enough of a rate increase would likely force a discontinuance of telephone service altogether.

I sincerely hope that the PUC will take my plea for a no to the deregulation request into real consideration.

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